

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT Soviet Patriotic Group

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1. According to source, Arshak Sarkissian, staff member of the Soviet Legation in Beirut, has discussed with Ivan Nemat (Vanka Nankov), a member of the Administrative Committee of the Soviet Patriotic Group in Beirut and manager of the "Cave Russe" restaurant, plans for increasing the activities of the Group. Sarkissian reportedly requested that the Group increase its cultural propaganda in Beirut Arab circles and also that it spread rumors that the United States is seeking war with the Soviet Union. According to source, Ivan Nemat was asked by Sarkissian to use his contacts in order to obtain employment in foreign companies such as Tapline (Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company) and IPC (Iraq Petroleum Company) for members of the Patriotic Group.
2. The Group's Red Army Day meeting on 26 February 1949 was attended by forty-one members and several guests, mostly Armenians and Lebanese of no particular importance, according to source. Sarkissian, Feodor Pissarenko, and Ra'if Khuri, all members of the Soviet Legation, also attended the meeting.
3. Joseph Gibor, a Russian by origin, is reported by source to watch activities of members of the Soviet Patriotic Group for Viktor Khangulov, First Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Beirut. Source describes Gibor as "neither intelligent, capable, nor honest." He is a Communist by conviction, although not a Party member, source states. At present Gibor is awaiting repatriation to the USSR.

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